

NOTTINGHAM BOAT CLUB

WATER SAFETY POLICY

OBJECTIVES

1. To review the water safety policy.
2. To provide all members with a written water safety procedure.
3. To outline the disciplinary action if the water safety procedure is not followed.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all members of Nottingham Boat Club who boat from Trentside and all other visitors to the premises who use the facilities of Nottingham Boat Club.

PROCEDURE

1.Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of the crew (including the coxswain) to ensure that the boat is correctly lit in conditions of poor light/visibility in accordance with the guidelines mentioned below.
- Each member of the crew must bring any equipment failure or safety issues to the attention of the coxswain or steersperson immediately.
- Every member has a responsibility to notify the Safety Officer and the Club Captain or Vice Captains of any breach of this safety procedure immediately.
- Coxswains are responsible for ensuring that they wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.

2.Coxless Boats

- Coxless boats are primarily for the use of experienced crews.
- Less experienced crews may use coxless boats under supervision of a coach with the permission of the Club Captain and/or Vice Captains but NOT in darkness or adverse conditions.
- Coxless boats must only be used unsupervised when steered by a competent steersperson and/or at the discretion of the Captain or Vice Captains.
- A list of authorised steerspersons and crews is kept by the Club Secretary, Captain and Vice Captains. It is also displayed on the notice board. If you wish to be added to the list then please see the Club Captain or one of the Vice Captains.
- All coxless boats must be steered from the bow when in use on rivers with the exception of racing or training on straight line/lane courses or when agreed with the Club Captain and/or one of the Vice Captains.

3.Rowing in Darkness

- It is the responsibility of the crew to provide appropriate lighting.
- All boats must be well lit with a strong fixed **white** light on the bow and a strong fixed **white** light and **red flashing** light on the stern.
- Lights must be positioned centrally on the boat and not on the side/riggers.

IF LIGHTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE THEN THE CREW MUST NOT BOAT.

- In the event of a light failing, the boat must return immediately to the club at light pressure/slow speed, staying close to the bank and exercising extreme caution.
- During darkness, all boats may only travel between the Church and the Green Doors (500m downstream of Lady Bay Bridge), and boats travelling downstream must keep into the bank, except between Trent Bridge and the Forest Ground.
- Crews should endeavour to steer their boats close to their respective banks to allow a clear zone in the middle of the river except when rowing downstream between Trent Bridge and the Forest Ground where crews must be positioned in the middle of the river.
- Crews must not row between Trent Bridge and Lady Bay Bridge at firm pressure.
- Novices may only row in darkness in coxed fours or eights steered by a competent coxswain.
- No novice single scullers are permitted to row in a single scull in darkness unless deemed competent by the Captain or Vice Captains.

4.Signing In and Out

To assist in locating missing crews and improving clubhouse security the following guidelines must be adhered to:-

- All crews must sign out before any outings on the river and then sign in upon returning.
- The details to be recorded are the name of a crew member, the boat name and the time of departure.

5.Navigation by Trentside

- All boats rowing upstream wishing to end their outing must stay on the far side of the river and cross towards the landing stages at the lock.
- Crews wishing to turn at Trentside to end their outing may turn immediately at the buttress (opposite the end of the landing stages), if this does not obstruct other crews. They must then row immediately to the landing stages. Alternatively, turn below the Forest Ground and proceed upstream on the far side of the river and cross towards the landing stages at the lock.
- Under no circumstances should the landing stages be approached via the Club side bank in front of the Forest Ground.

6. Adverse Conditions

Fog: All outings will be deemed cancelled in poor visibility where Trent Bridge cannot be seen from the club house.

Stream: If the height of the water reaches the grass in front of the club then the stream will be deemed to be unsuitable for Novice crews and their outings will be cancelled.

General: IF IN DOUBT - DO NOT GO OUT.

7. Breach of Safety Procedure

If a crew/single sculler is found to be in breach of this procedure, the following action will be taken:-

- The entire crew will be told they are in breach of the water safety procedure.
- The crew may also be issued with a written warning outlining their breach of the procedure and stating that a further offence may lead to the suspension of the crew boating from Trentside and from racing (at the committee's discretion).
- Repeated breaches of the water safety procedure may lead to further disciplinary action at the committee's discretion in accordance with the Club rules.
- All members of Nottingham Boat Club and visitors to the Club using the Club's facilities are bound by this policy.

(September 2000)